WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of attenuating atherosclerotic progression in a patient comprising administering to said patient progenitor cells in an amount and under conditions such that said attenuation is effected.

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein said cells are endothelial progenitor cells.

3. The method according to claim 1 wherein said cells are pluripotent, bipotent or monopotent stem cells.

4. The method according to claim 1 wherein said cells mature into vascular endothelial cells in said patient.

5. The method according to claim 1 wherein said cells are isolated from an embryo.

6. The method according to claim 1 wherein said cells are isolated from hematopoietic or stromal fractions of bone marrow.

7. The method according to claim 1 wherein said cells are isolated from peripheral blood or umbilical cord blood.

8. The method according to claim 1 wherein said cells are isolated from a non-atherosclerotic mammalian donor.

9. The method according to claim 1 wherein said cells express the CD34+ marker.

10. The method according to claim 1 wherein said cells are heterologous cells.

11. The method according to claim 1 wherein said cells are administered intravenously.

12. The method according to claim 1 wherein said method is used prophylactically.

13. The method according to claim 1 further comprising administering to said patient a proteinaceous or non-proteinaceous anti-atherosclerotic agent.

14. A method of delivering an agent to a vascular site in a patient comprising administering to said patient progenitor cells comprising said agent under conditions such that said delivery is effected.

15. The method according to claim 14 wherein said vascular site is a site of vascular injury.

16. The method according to claim 14 wherein said vascular site is an atherosclerotic site.

17. The method according to claim 14 wherein said agent is a proteinaceous or nonproteinaceous therapeutic agent.

18. The method according to claim 17 wherein said agent is a proteinaceous therapeutic agent.

19. The method according to claim 18 wherein said cells comprise a recombinant molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence that encodes said proteinaceous agent and, upon administration of said cells, said nucleic acid sequence is expressed and said proteinaceous agent is thereby produced.

20. The method according to claim 19 wherein said nucleic acid sequence is operably linked to a promoter.

21. The method according to claim 20 wherein said promoter is an inducible promoter.

22. The method according to claim 14 wherein said agent is present in a liposome.

23. The method according to claim 14 wherein said agent is an imaging agent.

24. The method according to claim 23 wherein said imaging agent is iron.

25. A method of monitoring cell distribution in a vascular wall of a patient comprising administering to said patient progenitor cells comprising an imaging agent and monitoring distribution of said agent in said vascular wall.

26. The method according to claim 25 wherein said imaging agent is iron.